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August 4th, 2022

Dear Toronto Preservation Board,

I am writing in support of preserving 1117 Queen St. W. Postal Station 'C' as an irreplaceable aspect of Ward 9 (Davenport), as well as part of the City of Toronto.

As the Member of Provincial Parliament for Davenport, the loss of community space - including especially shared community resources, truly affordable live/work/create space for cultural workers - in Toronto over the past 20 years is a major concern both for me personally and for the community as a whole. A balance must be shaped between the need to build more housing and retention of existing public space, especially when that public space has unique architectural and historical value.

The potential loss of 1117 Queen St. W. Postal Station "C" has galvanized the community here in Davenport. I hear about it not only from residents near that area, in the extreme south end of my riding, but all across the riding. Discussion about the issue has come up in social media groups and in conversations that I've had with constituents everywhere from Queen St. to Dufferin Grove to Carleton Village.

Furthermore, this building has obvious historical value, and is already heritage listed by the city. The next obvious step is to protect and preserve the building. It has also been given a new life by the community, and the WestQueenWest Community Post group in particular, who have demonstrated its potential as a vibrant, accessible and much needed resource in our community.

I am asking you to seriously consider the importance of 1117 Queen St. W. to the community of Davenport and to Toronto as a whole. When we get rid of unique public spaces like this, they will never be replaced or replicated, and so it is crucial that we preserve the ones that we have. We have seen this story play out far too often. While it is absolutely outrageous that a federal government corporation would so casually sell off priceless public property like this, the city now has an opportunity to do the right thing.

Marit Stiles
Member of Provincial Parliament for Davenport